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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/753,701	01/08/2004	Keith McIlhany	2003P01398US01	8767

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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

RAPP, CHAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/753,701

Applicant(s)

MCILHANY ET AL.

Examiner

Chad Rapp

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,11-14 and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,7,10,15,19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 8 “the workstation” should be changed to “a workstation”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2, 7, 10, 15 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dudley.

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Dudley teaches the claimed invention (claim 1) a method of operating a building control system including:

a. Receiving a user generated event at a field panel of the building control system is taught as at a computer or data entry device(field panel) comfort level information is entered(paragraph [0004] and [0017]);

b. Storing data regarding the received user generated event at the field panel is taught as data entry device (field panel) is operative to store comfort level(paragraph [0006]);

c. Transmitting the stored data regarding the received user event at the field panel to the workstation is taught as each computer(field panel) is connected to network computer. The network computer is operative to collect comfort level information (T Input K) from the individual computers(field panels)(paragraph [0017]).

As to claim 3, Dudley teaches wherein the step of storing data regarding the user generated events at the field panel includes temporarily storing data regarding the user generated events at the field panel is taught as when the network computer receives information the value of T Input K is set to zero(paragraph [0020]).

As to claim 4, Dudley teaches wherein the user generated events are temporarily stored in a buffer is taught as the stored data of T Input K 's (buffer) are temporarily stored because once the data is sent it is reset(paragraph [0020]).

As to claim 5, Dudley teaches wherein the step of accepting a user generated event at a field panel of the building control system includes accepting a user generated event at a field panel via a user interface of the field panel is taught as a point click, keyboard or data entry device([0018] and [0004]).

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As to claim 6, Dudley teaches appending identification data to the stored data regarding the received user event at the field panel is taught as the office index value, which is the K in the data stored as T Input K([0019]).

As to claim 8, Dudley teaches modifying a field panel database of the field panel with regard to the received user generated event is taught as once the data is input the memory area of T Input K changes, before it was set to zero. Then it is changed again when the data is sent out and it resets([0018], [0019] and [0020]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dudley.

Dudley teaches the claimed invention(claim 9) including:

a. Detecting a user generated modification to a field panel data element by a field panel of the building control system is taught as at a computer or data entry device(field panel) comfort level information is entered(paragraph [0004] and [0017]);

b. Storing data regarding the detected user generated modification to the field panel element panel is taught as data entry device (field panel) is operative to store comfort level(paragraph [0006]);

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c. Appending field panel modification data to the data regarding the detected user generated modification to the field panel data element to define stored appended field modification data is taught as the office index value, which is the K in the data stored as T Input K([0019]).

d. Transmitting, by the field panel, the stored appended field modification data to the workstation is taught as each computer(field panel) is connected to network computer. The network computer is operative to collect comfort level information (T Input K) from the individual computers(field panels)(paragraph [0017]):

As to claim 11, Dudley teaches modifying a field panel database with the data regarding a user generated modification to a field element of the field panel is taught as once the data is input the memory area of T Input K changes, before it was set to zero. Then it is changed again when the data is sent out and it resets([0018], [0019] and [0020]).

As to claim 12, Dudley teaches further comprising the step of storing data regarding the detected user generated modification to the field panel data element includes temporarily storing data regarding the user generated modification at the field panel is taught as when the network computer receives information the value of T Input K is set to zero(paragraph [0020]).

As to claim 13, Dudley teaches wherein the data regarding the user generated modification is temporarily stored in a buffer is taught as the stored data of T Input K 's (buffer) are temporarily stored because once the data is sent it is reset(paragraph [0020]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 14, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dudley.

Dudley teaches the claimed invention (claim 14) including:

- a. A workstation is taught as network controller(paragraph [0020]);
- b. A field panel in communication with the workstation is taught as each computer(field panel) is connected to network computer. The network computer is operative to collect comfort level information (T Input K) from the individual computers(field panels)(paragraph [0017]).
- c. The field panel operative to receive a user generated field panel event is taught as at a computer or data entry device(field panel) comfort level information is entered(paragraph [0004] and [0017]);
- d. Store data regarding the user generated field panel event is taught as data entry device (field panel) is operative to store comfort level(paragraph [0006]);
- e. Append identification data to the stored data regarding the user generated field panel event is taught as the office index value, which is the K in the data stored as T Input K([0019]).

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f. Forward the data regarding the user generated field panel event and appended identification data to the workstation is taught as each computer(field panel) is connected to network computer. The network computer is operative to collect comfort level information (T Input K) from the individual computers(field panels)(paragraph [0017]).

As to claim 16, Dudley teaches wherein the field panel is further operative to temporarily store data regarding the user generated field panel event is taught as when the network computer receives information the value of T Input K is set to zero(paragraph [0020]).

As to claim 17, Dudley teaches wherein the data regarding the user generated field panel event is temporarily stored in a buffer is taught as the stored data of T Input K 's (buffer) are temporarily stored because once the data is sent it is reset(paragraph [0020]).

As to claim 18, Dudley teaches wherein the field panel is further operative to erase the buffer after forwarding the data regarding the user generated field panel event and appended identification data to the workstation is taught as the stored data of T Input K 's (buffer) are temporarily stored because once the data is sent it is reset and is taught as the stored data of T Input K 's (buffer) are temporarily stored because once the data is sent it is reset (paragraph [0020]).

Conclusion

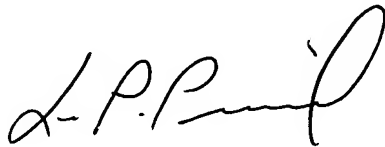
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Rapp whose telephone number is (703)306-4528. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 11:00-7:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (703)308-0538. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Note examiner Rapps phone number starting on October 13th 2004, will be (571-272-3752)



Chad Rapp
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

cjr

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

I claim:

1. A method of operating a building control system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a user generated event at a field panel of the building control system;

storing data regarding the received user generated event at the field panel; and

transmitting the stored data regarding the received user event at the field panel to the workstation.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to transmitting the stored data: forwarding, by the field panel, notification of the received user generated event to a workstation of the building control system;

receiving, by the field panel, a request from the workstation for data regarding the received user generated event.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing data regarding the user generated events at the field panel includes temporarily storing data regarding the user generated events at the field panel.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the user generated events are temporarily stored in a buffer.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accepting a user generated event at a field panel of the building control system includes accepting a user generated event at a field panel via a user interface of the field panel.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

 appending identification data to the stored data regarding the received user event at the field panel.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the identification data includes user identification, time identification and field panel identification.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

 modifying a field panel database of the field panel with regard to the received user generated event.

9. In a building control system having a workstation and at least one field panel, a method of operating the building control system comprising the steps of:

detecting a user generated modification to a field panel data element by a field panel of the building control system;

storing data regarding the detected user generated modification to the field panel data element;

appending field panel modification data to the data regarding the detected user generated modification to the field panel data element to define stored appended field modification data; and

transmitting, by the field panel, the stored appended field modification data to the workstation.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

transmitting, by the field panel, notification of receipt of a user generated modification to the workstation.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

modifying a field panel database with the data regarding a user generated modification to a field element of the field panel.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing data regarding the detected user generated modification to the field panel data element includes

temporarily storing data regarding the user generated modification at the field panel.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the data regarding the user generated modification is temporarily stored in a buffer.

14. A building control system comprising:

a workstation; and

a field panel in communication with the workstation;

the field panel operative to receive a user generated field panel event, store data regarding the user generated field panel event, append identification data to the stored data regarding the user generated field panel event, and forward the data regarding the user generated field panel event and appended identification data to the workstation.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the field panel is further operative to forward notification of receipt by the field panel of a user generated field panel event to the workstation after appending the identification data to the stored data regarding the user generated field panel event.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the field panel is further operative to temporarily store data regarding the user generated field panel event.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the data regarding the user generated field panel event is temporarily stored in a buffer.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the field panel is further operative to erase the buffer after forwarding the data regarding the user generated field panel event and appended identification data to the workstation

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the field panel is further operable to:
store the data regarding the user generated field panel event in a buffer;
and
block subsequent user generated field panel events if the buffer is full.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the buffer is operable to store data regarding multiple user-generated field panel events.